

THE MONTHLY CHRONICLE.

DECEMBER, 1842.

ARTICLE XVI.

COMMERCE OF FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES.

WE gave, in our last Number, a statement of the commerce between France and the United States, to the year 1840, founded on a comparison of the official reports of the governments of the two countries. We are enabled, through information just received, to add a similar statement of the commerce of the two countries in 1841.

According to the report lately published by the administration of the customs of France, of the commerce of 1841, it appears that the trade with the United States takes the first rank, in the amount both of imports and exports. Great Britain ranks next, and after it Belgium, and then the Sardinian States.

The exports from France to the United States in 1841, according to the French official statement, were valued at 121,200,000 francs, or \$23,028,000; and the imports from the United States at 121,500,000, or \$23,085,000. According to the United States' treasury statement, the imports to the United States in the year were valued at \$23,933,822; being an excess of \$905,000 over the French valuation; and the exports from the United States to France at \$21,766,755, or an amount less by \$1,318,000 than the French valuation. It should be remarked, that in these comparisons, as well as those previously given, the French statement embraces the exports from and imports to the ports of France, in the calendar year 1841, while the American embraces the exports and imports at the ports of the United States, in the year ending September 30, 1841. It will be perceived, that there is a much smaller difference between the results given in the two statements, than in those of the years before compared. It will be observed,

also, that the amounts of exports and imports in this year, very nearly balance each other.

The aggregate of imports into France from all foreign countries, in 1841, amounted to 1,121,000,000 francs, of which 804,000,000 were retained for home consumption, and 317,000,000 francs were reëxported. The aggregate value of domestic products exported was 749,000,000 francs, making with the foreign products reëxported, 1,066,000,000 francs, and leaving an excess of imports over exports amounting to 55,000,000 francs. This excess of imports over the exports apparently arises from the mode of valuation of the imports, which evidently embraces, in addition to the foreign cost of the merchandise imported, a part or the whole of the charges of importation.

The aggregate of the imports and exports of France in the year 1841, exceeds the amount of any former year, being 6 per cent. over the amount of 1840, and 17 per cent. over the average of the five preceding years. If the comparison be extended further back, the increase is found to be still greater. Taking three periods of five years, from 1827 to 1841, inclusive, the average commerce of the last five years exceeds that of 1827 to 1831 by 62 per cent.; and that of 1832 to 1836, by 25 per cent. These facts show a remarkable degree of prosperity in the commerce and industry of that country.

Of this commerce, including exports and imports, the amount of 631,000,000 francs was carried on by land, and 1,556,000,000 by sea. The commerce by land was with Switzerland, 172,000,000, Belgium, 141,000,000, the German Union 136,000,000, the Sardinian States 117,000,000, and Spain 11,000,000. The whole commerce with Spain, including that by sea and land, amounted to 107,000,000. Of the commerce by sea, about half was with countries in Europe, 41 per cent. with foreign countries out of Europe; 8 per cent. with French colonies, and 1 per cent., or 19,000,000, the produce of the fisheries. Of the transmarine commerce, 652,000,000 consisted of imports in French vessels, and 904,000,000 in foreign vessels. The number of ships entered and cleared was 27,243, with a tonnage of 3,092,000 tons. Of this shipping, 9,717 vessels, measuring 871,000 tons, were under the French flag, exclusive of vessels employed in the reserved trade of the French colonies and the fisheries, amounting to 334,000 tons. The foreign vessels were 9,717 in number, and measuring 18,873 tons. This shows a great disproportion in favor of foreign shipping, including even the colonial trade and fisheries, which are restricted to French vessels.

Of that portion of this commerce which is carried on with the United States, a much less proportion than any other is in French

vessels. Of the 49,700,000 in value of merchandise imported from and exported to France in 1841, \$2,946,000 in value only, or less than a sixteenth part, were in vessels of France, and the remaining fifteen-sixteenths were shipped in vessels of the United States. This statement shows, that as regards the shipping employed in the trade between this country and France, the interests of American manufactures are in a satisfactory state.

ARTICLE XVII.

THE WAR BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND CHINA.

IN one of the first Numbers of this journal, we gave a detailed, and, we believe, an accurate account of the difficulties at Canton, between the English and the Chinese authorities, which were the immediate cause of the Chinese war.* Since that time, we have published accounts of the more important events which have distinguished this contest, as they have transpired. At the present time, when we have just received the news of an arrangement which will prove the end of, at least, one of the epochs of the struggle, we propose to enter into a review of the history of it, through the three years in which it has gone on. We shall confine ourselves to a view of the events connected with the war, without going into any examination of the questions which naturally arise as to the propriety of the conduct of either party. That examination would open so wide a field, that it would be impossible for us to enter upon it at the present time.

The article on the origin of the difficulty, to which we have alluded, brought down the narrative of these transactions to the close of the year 1839. At that time the only instance of actual hostilities had been the naval engagement in the bay of Canton, between Captain Smith, commanding the British men-of-war on that station, and the Chinese fleet of junks. But as soon as the news of these transactions reached India and England, active preparations for offensive operations were made, and large forces were fitted out by the British Government in both those countries. A military force for China was gathered in India, and great additions were made to the naval and military forces in the East by reinforcements from England. An order of council was issued

* See Monthly Chronicle, Vol. I, p. 94.

by the British Government, which may be regarded as its declaration of war. It announced that satisfaction would be demanded from the Chinese Government for the late injurious proceedings of certain officers of the Emperor towards British officers and subjects ; and that, with a view to obtaining such reparation, ships, vessels, and cargoes belonging to the Emperor of China and his subjects, would be held in custody. This order was laid before Parliament on the 14th of April. A debate the week before on Sir John Graham's motion censuring the conduct of Ministers in regard to the affairs in China, had resulted in a division, in which the House of Commons sustained the Ministry by a vote of 271 to 262.

The expedition, which was immediately fitted out in England to carry into execution this order of council, was placed under the command of Sir Gordon Bremer. Captain Elliot, the British consul at Canton, and Admiral Elliot, were now appointed plenipotentiaries to conduct the important negotiations which were expected. The English expedition, together with the additions made to it in India, consisted of 17 ships of war of different classes, under the command of Admiral Elliot, and about 10,000 men of all arms. A considerable portion of it arrived in the waters of Canton about the middle of June, 1840. Up to that time, in the course of that year, no material military movements had taken place. The Chinese authorities had been engaged in strengthening the defences of Canton. They had availed themselves of their experience of the superiority of European naval architecture, and had built one or two small vessels of war on European models. The importation of British goods had been for most of the time closely prohibited, and for several weeks all foreign trade was suspended, by order of the Emperor ; circumstances which produced a great depression in the commercial interests of the East.

At Singapore, where most of the British vessels of war touched on their passage to Canton, they seized several Chinese merchant-junks, which were trading to that port, thus showing their intention to carry out, in full, the order of council of which we have spoken ; as, immediately after the expedition arrived in the waters of Canton, on the 28th of June, Sir Gordon Bremer declared the blockade of that port. He then immediately proceeded to the north with the greater portion of the squadron, leaving only a sufficient naval force to carry the blockade into effect. This force consisted of two frigates, two smaller vessels of war, and one steamer. We may here remark, that this blockade was not enforced with perfect strictness. The English residents at Macao constantly complained that junks, laden with salt and provisions, were admitted into the bay and river.

The naval squadron proceeded immediately to the island of Chusan. This island, the largest of the Chusan group, is situated in latitude 30 deg. north, near the main land, immediately opposite the estuary into which the river Tsin-Tang discharges itself. It is about 30 miles in length, and 15 broad, a fertile, well cultivated and populous island, and becomes a good military station, from its vicinity to the great cities of Ning-po, Hang-chow, [Hang-chow-foo], and the mouth of the Yang-tse-kiang, (which is known on most European maps as the river Kiang-Ku,) by which it has a short water communication with the great city, Nanking. The capital of the island, and its principal seaport, is the city of Ting-hae (Ting-hae-hëen, hëen denoting provincial city,) which is situated on the southern side.

On the 4th of August, a part of the British squadron arrived off Ting-hae, and the ships of war immediately took up a position in the harbor. The same evening, General Burrell, the brigadier in command of the land force, summoned the Chinese Admiral, who was also Governor of the Chusan group of islands, to surrender, in order to prevent bloodshed. The officers bearing the summons returned with the Chinese Admiral to the Wellesley, accompanied by two mandarins, and although they acknowledged their incapacity to resist, they attempted by evasion and requests to obtain time, and left the ship without any satisfactory result, but perfectly understanding, that if submission was not made before daylight next day, hostilities must commence.

On the next morning, accordingly, as it was evident that the Chinese intended hostilities, the troops were landed for an assault, the different works of defence reconnoitred, and some slight exchange of shots ensued. The different bodies of the English forces took up their positions with a view to commencing an active attack early the next morning. At daylight it appeared, however, that the Chinese had evacuated the city, and the English troops at once took possession. They had sustained no loss in their movements of the preceding day. The Chinese loss was estimated at about 25 men. A considerable quantity of ordnance, chiefly old and of poor construction, was taken with the works, but the Chinese showed a total ignorance of gunnery in serving their pieces. When the English forces entered the city, it appeared that almost all the inhabitants, except those of the poorest classes, had left it. These had taken advantage of the desertion of property to carry on extensive depredations, to which General Burrell put a stop as soon as possible. The English troops, in spite of the exertion of their officers, disgraced themselves by their riotous proceedings when intoxicated with *sam-shoo*, which they found in the deserted city. Accounts vary, however, as to the

extent of these disorders. Several of the Chinese merchants returned to the city, on finding that they would be well treated by the invaders.

About the same time with this attack, the frigate *Blonde* appeared off the island and town of Amoy, and sent a boat, with a communication to the governor, bearing a flag of truce. The boat was fired upon by the Chinese, and in retaliation the *Blonde* engaged with and silenced several war-junks, and took one of the forts in the harbor. To this circumstance, the subsequent civility of the Chinese officers at other points was attributed by the English. Amoy is an important seaport on a small island immediately adjacent to the main land, about half way between Macao and Chusan, and opposite to the large island of Formosa. We shall have occasion to speak of it again in the course of this narrative.

When Captain Elliot arrived at Ting-hae, as he did a day or two after it was captured, he sent to the governor of the neighboring province of Che-Keang a letter for the Emperor, explaining the grievances of the English, and demanding redress. It was believed that this letter contained a demand for compensation for the opium which had been destroyed at Canton, and for the opening of some of the northeast ports to the British. The Governor declined to send the letter formally, but an open copy of it was shown to him, the import of which, it was supposed, he would forward in his despatches. Captain Elliot immediately proclaimed a blockade of the Ning-po river, which empties into the sea opposite Chusan, and this blockade was enforced. He did not satisfy himself with the hope, that the Governor of Che-Keang would send his letter to Peking, but immediately on the arrival of Admiral Elliot, he proceeded to the mouth of the Pihho river, on which that capital was situated.

The Pihho river empties into the Gulf of Petchelee, at the head of the Yellow Sea, in about 39 deg. north latitude. That part of the squadron which sailed thither with the plenipotentiaries consisted of five men of war, one steamer, and two tenders, a force large enough to alarm, at least, the Chinese authorities. It arrived off the mouth of the Pihho on the 9th of August, and on the 11th, Captain Elliot entered the river and sent his letter, containing the demands of the British Government, to the Emperor, who was at that time at Peking, about a hundred miles from the sea, on the Pihho.* On the 27th of the month, several dignitaries appeared from court with the Emperor's answer. With these persons Captain Elliot entered into some negotiation, the result of which,

* We may here remark, that the syllable "Ho," found at the end of this and other proper names, is only a word signifying river. Hoang-Ho and Pik-Ho, therefore, simply mean the rivers Hoang and Pih. Kiang means a great river.

although no details transpired, was generally supposed to be satisfactory to him. The Emperor expressed his regret, it was said, at the difficulties which had taken place, and said that he had sent a high commissioner to Canton, who would adjust them all. To that place, accordingly, the plenipotentiary consented to remove the negotiation, and he accordingly immediately left the Gulf of Petchelee and returned to Chusan, at which place the expedition arrived in the last week of September, and rejoined the forces which had been left there. It was thought probable that the plenipotentiaries were the more willing to leave the Pihho because at that season the commencement of the northeast monsoon was to be expected, and it would have been difficult for them to receive any reinforcements.

Meanwhile, the force left at Chusan had been suffering from the effects of malaria, or of the provisions supplied to them. A large proportion of the troops were at different times rendered unfit for service, by the sickness which thus prevailed; and in the course of the summer and autumn seven or eight hundred men died. Captain Elliot did not remain long at the island, but proceeded to Macao again, to renew his task of negotiation. He arrived there on the 20th of November. On the 29th, Keshen, the newly appointed commissioner of the emperor, arrived, and the negotiations began. It has been constantly charged on Captain Elliot that the task of negotiation was one which was peculiarly grateful to him, and he seems to have entered upon it at this time with spirit. He was in the habit of paying more attention and regard to the protestations of the Chinese than did most of the English officers, and, indeed, than these protestations ever proved to deserve. At this time, however, after some concessions of trifling importance, made by the Chinese with respect to recent difficulties, and apologies for their attacks on sundry boats with flags of truce which they had lately fired upon, it became evident even to Captain Elliot, that the commissioner of the Emperor did not intend to surrender any thing of any importance toward the completion of the negotiations, or the grant of his various requisitions, and on the 6th of January, 1841, therefore, he notified the military and naval commanders, that he had suspended negotiations, and that they were at liberty to assume the offensive against the Chinese. Keshen was aware that this alternative was to be adopted at this time. Admiral Elliot had before this time resigned, ostensibly on account of ill health, and returned to India, and thence to England. His resignation left Sir Gordon Bremer in chief command of the naval part of the expedition.

Under command of this officer, the forts of Chuenpe and Ty-kéto, at the Bogue, were stormed on the 7th of January. On

the 8th, the vessels moved into position to attack the forts at Anunghoy;* but at this juncture, at the request of the Chinese Admiral, a truce was declared, and such representations were made, as induced Captain Elliot to consent to a renewal of the negotiation. The result of this renewal was a treaty, providing that the island of Hong Kong† should be ceded to the British; that in six years, six millions of dollars of indemnity should be paid to the British Government, in annual instalments; that there should be direct official intercourse between the two governments; and that the Chinese should reopen the Canton trade within ten days. They had previously suspended it. The treaty excited the greatest indignation against Captain Elliot among the British residents, who were greatly dissatisfied that he obtained so little, as the result of the attack, which had virtually placed Canton in his power.

Nor did the arrangement please the Chinese government better. Keshen, in his despatches to court, which were published in this journal at the time they were received in this country, put the best aspect possible on the affair. He defended his conduct in an able manner, which proved him to be a sensible and intelligent man. The Emperor, however, at once refused his assent to the treaty, censuring Keshen severely for his cowardice, and accusing him of treason. He was accordingly recalled from his station, and three commissioners appointed in his stead. [These documents may be found in Vol. II. of this journal, p. 375, et seq.] The following proclamation, published by Keshen on the 10th of January, shows the light in which he professed to regard the surrenders which he had made.

"Keshen, a great Minister of State, and Imperial High Commissioner, of the second order of the hereditary nobility, and acting governor of the two Kwang Provinces, writes this despatch for the full information of the Tangche, or Keunmingfoe, of Macao.

"The English barbarians are now obedient to orders, and, by an official document, have restored Ting-hae and Shakee, invoking me with the most earnest importunity that I should for them report, and beg for (the Imperial) favor.

"At present, all affairs are perfectly well settled. The former order, for stopping their trade and cutting off the supplies of provisions, it is unnecessary to enforce; it is for this purpose that I issue these orders to the said Tangche, that he may obey accordingly, without opposition. A special despatch."

The English did not wait for the approval of the Emperor.

* For the position of these forts, see the Map of the Harbor and Bay of Canton, Mon. Chron. Vol. I. facing p. 108.

† See Mon. Chron. Vol. II. p. 285.

With a view to the occupation of the island of Hong Kong, in the bay of Canton, which he had acquired by these negotiations, Captain Elliot sent orders to Chusan for the complete evacuation of that place. From some remarks in Keshen's despatches, and from a paragraph in the proclamation which we have just copied, it might be inferred that this was a provision in the treaty. This is, however, hardly probable, and there is no declaration to that effect in the various accounts of the negotiation. Keshen probably felt unwilling to complete the final arrangement of the treaty till he could receive news from Peking, and constantly procrastinated accordingly, in every possible manner. Captain Elliot's patience was at length exhausted, and on the 25th of February, after every kind of delay had been exhausted on the part of the commissioner, hostilities were recommenced, and the British fleet again moved up to the attack of the forts.

After the truce of the 9th of January, the British officers had entirely destroyed the fortifications, of which they then gained possession, with their *matériel*. The Chinese had, however, with almost incredible labor, erected new fortifications on the most important of these positions, and the chain of defences of the river would have been, therefore, a very formidable one, had they been manned by a competent soldiery. The forts destroyed on the 9th of January were only the lower ones of the general series.

The attack resulted in the capture of all these fortresses, and the advance of the British fleet to Whampoa. We published a detailed account of it in the last volume of the Chronicle, [see Vol. II. p. 312.] The British forces arrived at Whampoa on the 5th of March. It was the desire of Sir Gordon Bremer to press on at once to Canton; but the Kwang-Chow-foo, or governor of Canton, and the Hong merchants, having come down to solicit a truce, Captain Elliot agreed to a suspension of hostilities. These Chinese functionaries stated that Keshen had been degraded, but that the newly appointed commissioners had not arrived, so that there was no authorized government in the city. Under this temporary arrangement matters remained for a fortnight; but on the 16th of March, a flag of truce sent by Captain Elliot to the imperial commissioner having been fired upon, the English advanced squadron immediately proceeded to capture the remaining defences of the city, passing by the city itself, which thus lay, for the first time, under the fire of English men-of-war. At about this period two of the newly-appointed commissioners arrived, just in time to behold the success of the British arms, to sign a truce, and to sanction a temporary trade. These were Lung and Yang; their colleague, Yih, the nephew of the emperor, did not arrive till some weeks after. The credentials of these officers, and

some of their first edicts, will be found in Vol. II. p. 425 of the Chronicle. They are generally styled in the Chinese documents, Yih-shan, Lung-wan, and Yang-fang, or are spoken of as Yih, the rebel-quelling general, and Lung and Yang, the assistant great ministers of state. All these officers were degraded in rank when the news of the second attack on the forts arrived at Peking, for their dilatoriness in proceeding to the scene of action, but they were retained in their stations. At the same time that they were appointed, Ke was appointed governor of the province of Canton [Kwang-tung], and an army of fifty thousand men was ordered into service to repel the attacks of the English.

When Keshen was recalled, he was under sentence of capital punishment for inefficiency; but this sentence was subsequently remitted. In the intercourse which he had with the English, he proved himself an intelligent man, and a faithful and vigorous officer. It was not singular, that in the very embarrassing and difficult position in which he was placed, he failed to meet the expectations of his imperial master.

The new commissioners, as we have seen, had no alternative presented to them by the condition of affairs when they arrived at Canton. They were obliged to sanction an opening of the trade, and to preserve the armistice which was insisted upon. They did preserve it, so far as it required abstinence from offensive operations; but the army ordered to Canton by the emperor gathered round the city without any great attempt at concealment. Meanwhile, the English troops, who had been recalled from Chusan, had gathered at Tsing-hae, below Canton. In the end of March, Sir Gordon Bremer left Canton for Calcutta, with the intention, it was said, of bringing more reënforcements from India.

The truce only lasted through the month of April, and a part of May. At the end of that time, Captain Elliot, satisfied, as he said, that vigorous preparations for war were still carried on by the Chinese, once more ordered offensive operations. On the 21st of May, the Chinese attacked some of his vessels, and on the 24th and 25th of May, the English troops, who had been previously brought up the river, were landed, attacked the Chinese without the city, broke up the intrenched camp of the Chinese army, and took such positions as entirely commanded the city itself, so that it could have been stormed with little difficulty or loss. Sir Hugh Gough, who was in command of the forces, intended to storm the city on the 27th, but to his great mortification, as we learn from his own despatches, he was on that morning obliged, by directions from Captain Elliot, to countermand the attack. The plenipotentiary had agreed upon another suspension of hostilities. The conditions of this agreement for the ransom of

the city, as it was called, were the evacuation of the city by its garrison, who with the three commissioners were to retire sixty miles; the immediate payment of six millions of dollars, and the losses occasioned to British and other merchants by the recent proceedings of the Chinese. To this treaty the Chinese functionaries adhered, and the terms of it having been executed, the English performed their part, and withdrew their forces. Full details of all these operations and negotiations were published in the Chronicle of last year, (Vol. II. p. 470.)

In the report which Yih-shan made of this treaty to the emperor, the greater part of which was also published in the Chronicle for last October, the transaction was represented as a defeat indeed, but as a somewhat trifling affair, which had left the officers of the celestial empire in no very unfavorable position. He acknowledged that he was beaten, but began by giving an account of a successful attack made by his troops in the outset,* and then accounted for his subsequent disaster by the fatigue of his soldiers, the deficiency of his artillery, and the unexpected arrival of British reënforcements from below. In speaking of his concessions to the barbarians he professed that he only yielded *temporarily* in order to save the town, to free the river from the enemy's shipping, to repair his fortifications, and so arrange his forces, that he should be better able to attack the enemy on some other occasion. With some political skill, he closed his report by an allusion to Keshen's cession of Hong Kong, and his hope to wipe off this stain on the honor of the celestial dynasty, by purifying its territory from the contamination of strangers. To the removal of the Tartar troops, (for such must the Chinese army properly be called,) we find no allusion in this proclamation. The payment of the ransom of six millions of dollars is spoken of as a trifling affair, as indeed to the Chinese authorities it was. The whole sum was in effect wrung out of the Hong merchants. They furnished near-

* The different accounts of this first action, given by the English Admiral and the Chinese General, differ curiously. Yih-shan, "the emperor's nephew and commissioner," says: "On the evening of the first day of the fourth moon, (21st of May,) the great conflict with the barbarians commenced at the western fort. We attacked them with our guns, and succeeded in burning instantly five of their boats, breaking two of their guns, and carrying away the mainmasts of the barbarian ships. They were now all returning, when your Minister, at the fifth watch, (3 o'clock to 5 A.M.), was upon the point of bringing up his soldiers for their extermination; but all on a sudden the number of their vessels was increased by sixteen ships, eight devilships, (steamboats,) and eighty ship's boats, which all pressed forward," &c. Sir Le Fleming Senhouse, the British Admiral, says: "No overt act of hostility had taken place up to the 21st of May, except remounting the guns of the Shamien battery: but the Chinese appear to have been perfectly ready for attack. All remained quiet in the river until about 11 o'clock, P.M., when an attempt was made with fire rafts to burn the advanced vessels. This attack not only totally failed, but was followed up by a gallant attack on the Shamien battery, and the silencing of it," &c.

ly half of it immediately, and then requested the kwang-chow-foo to *lend* them the remainder from the treasury of the province. This he did ; but it was on their entering into obligations to repay it in four years. Throughout this period, also, the import and export duties affecting the foreign trade were at their highest standard, and the price of teas was singularly high. To the Chinese government, therefore, this payment was a matter of very little difficulty, and in point of fact, the commissioners had succeeded in freeing the town from the presence of the enemy at little or no cost, although their arms were totally defeated. The reply of the emperor sanctioned the arrangements made, and involved no censure of the commissioners.

Captain Elliot's conduct in this negotiation was severely censured by the English military and naval officers, and, indeed, by the residents generally. He had been recalled before this time, but the intelligence of his recall had not yet reached Canton. The military officers, as we have seen, were particularly angry that he should have robbed them of the glory of the storm of the city. General Gough says, in his despatch, in speaking of Captain Elliot's request to him to suspend the attack on the 27th of May ; " Whatever might be my sentiments, it was my duty to acquiesce. The attack, which was to have commenced in forty-five minutes, was countermanded, and the feelings of the Chinese were spared. Of the policy of the measure I do not consider myself a competent judge ; but I say ' feelings,' as I would have been responsible that Canton should be equally spared, with the exception of its defences, and that not a soldier should have entered the town further than the fortified heights within its walls." It is easy to see, however, that Captain Elliot's sentiments on the subject ought to have been very different from those of a mere military officer. He was, indeed, throughout his charge, placed in a very delicate, not to say a false, position.

The real object of the British government in the Chinese war, was to obtain satisfaction for the wrongs its merchants had received, and to make a new opening, if it could, for British trade and manufactures. It did not wish, of course, to destroy, at a blow, all the existing trade, and to ruin at once all these merchants, whose cause it was so zealously defending. It was obliged, therefore, during a period when it was levying war with its full power upon China, to do all that it could at the same time to preserve its Chinese trade. This was a difficult attempt. As war has usually been conducted, the very statement of it would have been considered a perfect paradox. Yet the plenipotentiary was constantly compelled to keep both these interests in mind ; he was to injure as much as he could China and the Chinese

commerce, coasting and foreign, and yet he was to foster and preserve, as he could, the British merchants and the British trade. This necessarily involved him in contradictions. We find the same man, now declaring the blockade of Canton, now making it the first condition of a truce, that the Chinese authorities should open the trade, and immediately after threatening an embargo on the port. But these contradictions are not surprising; the wonder rather is, that the plenipotentiary was not involved in greater ones. In the particular case before us, his conduct seems to be sustained by strong considerations. "In a word," says an intelligent French writer, who was an eye-witness of most of these proceedings, "Captain Elliot could not but see that a town of a million of souls, filled with a population which only waited for a signal to begin to pillage it, with an army of thirty thousand Tartars in the neighborhood, could not be occupied by an opposing army without acts of violence. These would have closed for a long time the avenues to all commercial transactions. Such a course, on the part of the plenipotentiary, would have been destroying with his own hands the seat of his own present, and probably future commercial operations. The attempts which had been made during the occupation of Chusan to draw the Chinese merchants there, had proved, that all immediate trade on that side was impossible, and that it was only at Canton, that it was to be hoped that the Chinese would lay aside their national hatred. The city of Canton, moreover, whatever might be its real importance, was so far removed from the heart of the empire, that the blow which destroyed it could not produce any decisive change in the warlike spirit expressed at Peking. The emperor had already blamed Keshen for entering into negotiations with the barbarians in the fear that Canton would be destroyed.

"In taking possession of Canton, too, the English plenipotentiary would have surrendered all means of ultimate action. It would have required three or four thousand of his troops, at least, making all proper allowance even for Chinese cowardice, to keep the city without exposing it to the danger of a sudden attack. To burn and pillage it would have been not only an impolitic act, as I have just said, but an act of barbarity, of which no English agent could have been capable.

"Captain Elliot only did, therefore, at this time, what necessity imposed upon him; he was faithful to the line of conduct which was imposed upon him. He had tried to keep the port of Canton open to the English commerce; satisfied with attaining this end, he would not probably have thought of recommencing hostilities in the river of Canton, if the Chinese had not seen fit to show him, that though their hate might slumber, it could not be extinguished. After having inflicted on them the chastisement, which their aggression seemed to require, it became neces-

sary to return to the old state of things ; that is, to try to renew commercial relations, even while preparing new acts of hostility."

As it was, although the trade was nominally reöpened after the treaty, it proceeded with languor, owing to the want of confidence in the Chinese dealers, and the fear of the people in the interior to approach the city. The authorities, and the emperor even, published edicts, with a view to reässure the dealers, but without any marked success. All transactions with the Hong merchants had to be conducted with money ; they were not willing to receive goods of any kind. The mercantile interest was a good deal depressed, therefore, and felt authorized to complain because the treaty secured to them no commercial advantages. Captain Elliot began the laying out of a town at Hong-Kong, and sold lots to the merchants, who began to build there. The foundation of an establishment here seems to have been always a favorite project with him.

Excepting the death of Sir H. Le Fleming Senhouse, on the 14th of June, nothing of importance transpired until the return of Sir Gordon Bremer from Calcutta, on the 18th. The Chinese were immediately notified that he had been appointed joint commissioner with Captain Elliot, but, except the publication of some unimportant edicts, nothing was done by any party for some weeks. On the 16th of July, the Chinese authorities published an edict, formally reöpening all trade on its ancient basis. This was done at the especial command of the emperor, and they probably hoped that the troubles were now over.

In the beginning of the month of August, the news arrived that Captain Elliot and Sir Gordon Bremer were recalled by the home government, and Sir Henry Pottinger and Sir William Parker appointed to fill their places. These changes had been ordered in England on the receipt there of the news of Captain Elliot's preliminary treaty with Keshen. The new officers arrived on the 9th, and Sir Henry Pottinger at once published his credentials, which authorized him to "negotiate and conclude with the minister vested with similar power and authority on the part of the emperor of China, any treaty or agreement for the arrangement of the differences now subsisting between Great Britain and China." On the 12th, the plenipotentiary published a notification, in which he distinctly stated, that, although he was desirous to promote the wishes, prosperity, well-being and security of the English and other foreign residents, it was "his intention to devote his undivided energies and thoughts to the primary object of securing a speedy and satisfactory close of the war;" and he therefore could "allow no consideration connected with mercantile pursuits and other interests to interfere with the strong measures which he

might find it necessary to authorize and adopt." He closed by saying, that he had intimated to the Chinese, that although he should respect the existing truce, so far as the province of Canton was concerned, the slightest infraction of its terms on their part would lead to open hostilities on his. He added, that with his knowledge of their bad faith, he thought an infraction highly probable. In accordance with the terms of the treaty of May, the imperial commissioners had all left Canton. The kwang-chow-foo, however, arrived at Macao, desirous to treat with the new plenipotentiary. Sir Henry sent to him his Secretary, but no arrangement was effected of any kind; and on the 21st of August, the greater part of the British forces left Hong-Kong for an expedition to the north. The squadron consisted of nine men-of-war, four steamers, and twenty-two transports. About four thousand troops were embarked with it. Seven vessels of war were left at Canton, under command of Captain Nyas; and seven or eight hundred men were left in garrison at Hong-Kong. The diseases incident to the climate had already begun to produce a bad effect among the troops.

The first operation of the invading force was the attack of the town of Amoy (Hea-moun); of which we have already spoken. It is an important commercial post, containing about 70,000 inhabitants. An account of the attack and capture of this city, which took place on the 26th of August, will be found on pp. 40 and 89 of the current volume of the Chronicle. The batteries were strong, and although the Chinese gunnery was wretchedly bad, they would never have been taken, had not their defective arrangement permitted the forces to land and take them by assault in the rear. A new cannon-foundry was found at Amoy, where they had recently cast thirty or forty brass cannon, and as many iron ones. Every thing was prepared on a very large scale for the casting of ordnance; it was curious indeed, to see how the Chinese talent for imitation had already produced its legitimate immediate results; the artillery found in Amoy was much superior to that which was found mounted in the defences of Canton. The Chinese had made singular progress in the course of a few months past. Indeed, if the want of *matériel* were the only difficulty experienced by the Chinese generals, Chinese ingenuity and skill would soon have supplied it. Unfortunately it could not, in the short time left to it, make of the Chinese people a nation of warriors. Here is the difficulty, so far as appears, which rendered nugatory all the exertions made by the officers of the celestial empire against the barbarians. In spite of the immense population of China, the formation of an army, every where a difficult matter, is in that empire more so than any where else. The Chi-

nese nation, although perfectly well organized for time of peace, is extremely ill ordered for war. In China, there is nothing resembling a conscription. The army is recruited from a certain number of families, destined from time immemorial to supply the country with soldiers. It is a hereditary occupation, like all occupations among the Chinese. Until the late events occurred, the privilege of being among the military families was very much valued; for on a soil which furnishes such a scanty supply of food for its inhabitants, it is considered no small favor to obtain a certain fixed support. A Chinese soldier receives about four dollars per month; this is a considerable sum in China, and enables him to support himself and family. The soldier's occupation, therefore, is not a despicable one. The soldier remains almost always in his village, happy and tranquil; he is born, so to speak, and dies, in a livery which secures to him a long and quiet life. But since the barbarians have arrived in China, no longer as supplicants, but as enemies; since English bullets have rendered the profession more dangerous, the uniform of the tiger is not so desirable a badge. And we may find in this method of recruiting the army the origin of its effeminate and cowardly behavior.

The British forces remained but three days in Amoy. They destroyed the works and cannon, and then left the city for the north. A force of four hundred men was left at Kolangsoo, a small island which commanded the town and harbor. The evacuation, however, took off much of the effect of the victory, for the mandarins returned as soon as they found that the enemy had left, and declared to their government that they had delivered the city by force of arms, after a great carnage of barbarians. The expedition at once proceeded to Tinghae, in Chusan, where it assembled at the close of September. The works had been rebuilt since the English forces had left it, but they were easily recaptured, and possession was resumed on the 1st of October. The forces, having been re-collected, proceeded to the attack of Chinhae, the port of the important city of Ningpo. Chinhae is but about thirty miles from Tinghae. It is situated on the main land at the mouth of the small river Tahea, on which Ningpo stands, about twelve miles above it. It was strongly fortified, and contained a large garrison, but was taken by storm by the English with little loss on the 10th. On the 13th, they moved up to Ningpo, which was found deserted by its troops, and was at once occupied by the victorious forces. Particulars of all these transactions were published in the third Number of the Chronicle of this year, (p. 135.)

At Ningpo, the British took up their winter quarters, and one or two attacks on depots of provisions in neighboring cities, were the only warlike events which transpired for some months. In all

these cases the provisions were distributed among the common people. The soldiers throughout these operations had been kept in good discipline; the only outrages which occurred, were the robberies committed by the Chinese vagrants on the deserted towns before the British troops could arrive. On the 10th of March, hostilities were recommenced by an attack by the Chinese on the forces in the two cities of Ningpo and Chinhae. These attacks were repelled, with great loss, (see *Mon. Chron.* Vol. III. p. 330.) This attack was under the direction of Yih-King. His forces retreated in great disorder, forty or fifty miles. Some attempts to cut off the provisions of Ningpo were followed by a movement of the British on the city Tseekee, where was a grain depot, which was stormed, with the loss of five or six hundred men, from a garrison of eight or ten thousand.

On the 7th of May, the British troops evacuated Ningpo, and leaving but 150 men at Chinhae, the commanders reëmbarked, and proceeded on their expedition to the north. Almost all their forces were withdrawn from Chusan at the same time. Having assembled off Chusan, the squadron sailed to Cha-poo, an important commercial emporium, about forty miles from Chinhae, on the other side of the estuary, into which the Tsin-tang empties. Cha-poo is the seat of the Japan trade of China, and has a pretty good harbor. The Portuguese were formerly permitted to trade there. The squadron arrived off the town on the 11th of May, and boats were immediately sent out to take soundings of the harbor and bar. The Chinese authorities sent a proposal to surrender some English prisoners in their possession as a ransom of the town, but this offer was, of course, refused. On the 13th, it was attacked by the squadron, and taken by the troops, who were landed after a somewhat more vigorous defence than had usually been made. The troops did not stay here long, but proceeded to one of the mouths of the great river Yang-tze, (Yang-tze-Kiang, the Kian-ku of our maps,) which it was proposed to enter. This river is the great artery of the empire; with it the great canals, and indeed all the means of internal communication are connected. The city of Nankin is situated about a hundred miles from its mouth. The following account of the operations at its mouth is extracted from the despatches of the plenipotentiary.

“After the necessary delay in destroying the batteries, magazines, foundries, barracks, and other public buildings, as well as the ordnance, arms, and ammunition captured at Cha-poo, the troops were reëmbarked, and the expedition finally quitted that port on the 23d of May, and arrived on the 29th off the Ragged islands, where it remained until the 13th of June, on which day it crossed the bar, which had been previously surveyed and buoyed off, into the Yang-tze-Kiang, to the point where the

river is joined by the Woosung. At this point the Chinese authorities had erected immense lines of works to defend the entrances of both rivers, and seem to have been so confident of their ability to repel us, that they permitted a very close *reconnoissance* to be made, in two of the small steamers, by their Excellencies the Naval and Military Commanders-in-Chief, on the 14th inst.; and even cheered and encouraged the boats which were sent in the same night to guide the ships of war to their allotted positions of attack. At daylight on the morning of the 16th, the squadron weighed anchor, and proceeded to take up their respective stations, which was scarcely done when the batteries opened, and the cannonade on both sides was extremely heavy and unceasing for about two hours; that of the Chinese then began to slacken, and the seamen and marines were landed at once under the fire from the ships, and drove the enemy out of the batteries before the troops could be disembarked and formed for advancing. Two hundred and fifty-three guns were taken in the batteries, (forty-two of them brass,) most of them of heavy calibre, and upwards of eleven feet long. The loss of the English forces is two killed and twenty-five wounded. The loss of the Chinese is eighty killed, and a proportionate number wounded."

Subsequently, expeditions were sent up the river Woosung, fifty miles above the city of Shanghai; in these movements, several more cannon were taken, making the whole amount of ordnance captured 364, of which 26 are of brass. Shanghai is said to be a fine city, more remarkable than Ningpo. It is perhaps, according to Mr. Gutzlaff, the largest emporium of the empire.

On the 6th of July, the expedition left Woosung to proceed further up the Yang-tze-Keang. On the 20th, it had arrived with little opposition opposite the large town of Chin-Keang-foo, which commands the entrance of the Grand Canal. The next morning the troops were disembarked, and marched to the attack of the Chinese forces. One brigade was directed to move against the enemy's camp, situated about three miles distant, where from 1,500 to 3,000 men, it was reported, were assembled; another was ordered to coöperate with this division in cutting off the expected retreat of the Chinese from the camp to the city; while the third received instructions to escalate the northern wall of the town. The Chinese, after firing a few distant volleys, fled from the camp with precipitation, and dispersed over the country. The city itself, however, was manfully defended by the Tartar soldiers, who prolonged the contest for several hours, resisting with desperate valor the combined efforts of the three brigades, aided by a reënforcement of marines and seamen. At length, opposition ceased, and before night the English were complete masters of the place. Chin-Keang-foo, like Amoy, was most strongly fortified, and the works in excellent repair. It is supposed the garrison consisted of not less than 3,000 men, and of these about 1,000, and 40 man-

darins, were killed and wounded. "The Tartar General," says Sir H. Pottinger, "retired to his house when he saw all was lost, made his servants set it on fire, and sat in his chair till he was burned to death. His secretary was found, the day after the assault, hidden in a garden; and on his being carried to the spot, recognized the half-consumed remains of his master, who was worthy of such a death."

The English loss was heavier than it had ever been in any of the encounters of the war; 169 men were killed and wounded.

Leaving a strong garrison for the protection of Chin-Keang-foo, the fleet proceeded towards Nankin, which was about forty miles distant, and arrived on the 6th of August, when preparations were immediately made for an attack on the city. A strong force, under the command of Major-General Lord Saltoun, was landed, and took up their position to the west of the town; and operations were about to be commenced, when a letter was sent off to the plenipotentiary, requesting a truce, as certain high commissioners, specially delegated by the emperor, and possessed of full powers to negotiate, were on their way from Peking. The attack was consequently deferred, but the commissioners did not arrive till the 15th. Their names and rank are thus given:

1. Kee Ying, of the Royal Family, and Commander-in-Chief of the Tartar troops in Kuang Sung.
2. Eleepoo, Lieutenant-General of Chapoo, formerly Governor of Che-keang, but degraded for liberating the prisoners in 1841.
3. Gnu, General of the two provinces, Keeang-soo and Keeang-see.

After some discussion, Sir Henry Pottinger agreed to a treaty with these commissioners, the basis of which will be found in the following circular, issued by him.

CIRCULAR.

To Her Britannic Majesty's Subjects in China.

Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary, &c. in China has extreme gratification in announcing to Her Majesty's subjects in China, that he has this day concluded and signed with the Chinese High Commissioners, deputed to negotiate with him, a treaty, of which the following are the most important provisions:

1. Lasting Peace and Friendship between the two empires.
2. China to pay twenty-one millions of dollars in the course of the present and three succeeding years.
3. The ports of Canton, Amoy, Foo-choo-foo, Ningpo, and Shanghai to be thrown open to British merchants, consular officers to be appointed to reside at them, and regular and just tariffs of import and export, (as well as inland transit,) duties to be established and published.
4. The island of Hong-Kong to be ceded in perpetuity to her Britannic Majesty, her heirs and successors.

5. All subjects of her Britannic Majesty, (whether natives of Europe or India,) who may be confined in any part of the Chinese empire, to be unconditionally released.

6. An act of full and entire amnesty to be published by the emperor under his Imperial sign manual and seal to all Chinese subjects, on account of their having held service or intercourse with or resided under the British Government, or its officers.

7. Correspondence to be conducted on terms of perfect equality amongst the officers of both Governments.

8. On the emperor's assent being received to this treaty, and the payment of the first 6,000,000 dollars, her Britannic Majesty's forces to retire from Nanking and the Grand Canal, and the military posts at Chin-hae to be also withdrawn, but the islands of Chusan and Kolangsoo are to be held until the money payments and the arrangements for opening the ports be completed.

In promulgating this highly satisfactory intelligence, her Majesty's plenipotentiary, &c. purposely refrains from any detailed expressions of his own sentiments as to the surpassing skill, energy, devotion, and valor which have distinguished the various grades, from the highest to the lowest, of all arms of her Majesty's combined forces, during the contest that has led to these momentous results. The claims which have been thus established will be, doubtless, acknowledged by the highest authorities. In the meantime, her Majesty's plenipotentiary congratulates her Majesty's subjects in China on the occasion of a peace, which, he trusts and believes, will, in due time, be equally beneficial to the subjects and interests of both England and China.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Dated on board the steam frigate *Queen*, in the Yang-tze-Keang river, off Nanking, this 29th day of August, 1842.

(Signed)

HENRY POTTINGER,
Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary.

It will be seen, that nothing is said in this treaty respecting the opium trade. It is stated in private letters from Nankin, that the commissioners desired to have a clause introduced respecting it, but that Sir Henry Pottinger declined; saying that the Chinese government must regulate this matter as it could with its own subjects. When the *Sesostris* steam-frigate, which brought this intelligence, left Nankin, the greater part of the first instalment of the ransom money was collected and ready for payment. When it was paid, the expedition was to return to Chusan. The ratification of the treaty by the emperor was received and forwarded September 16. If the Chinese authorities adhere, in good faith, to the treaty, and permit the trade to the ceded ports without obstructing it by local prohibitions and difficulties, they will be acquisitions of great value to the British. With most of them, however, they formerly had the liberty of trading; but the local exactions and vexations were such as to drive their commerce

entirely away. It was not till this had taken place that it was formally prohibited by the emperor in the year 1757. We have already spoken of Amoy, Ningpo, and Shanghai; Foo-choo, or Fu-tchieu, (Foo-choo-foo,) is situated on the coast, about fifty miles north of Amoy. It is in the immediate vicinity of the tea-district, and will prove the principal emporium of the tea-trade.

In the course of this expedition, Sir Henry Pottinger issued a long proclamation in the Chinese language, couched as far as possible in the Chinese style of such documents, stating the grievances for which the British government made war. The document, like others of a similar character issued by Captain Elliot, was intended to throw the whole blame of the transaction on the Chinese ministers, who were charged with deceiving the emperor, and it was hoped, probably, that the people might be themselves excited against the proceedings of the officials and army. There is no evidence whatever, that any of these proclamations produced any of the desired effect. On the other hand, the people seem to have remained loyal to their government, and to have preserved constantly their constitutional detestation of the barbarians. Even in the captured towns, it was found impossible to carry on any mercantile transactions of importance. It remains to be seen, whether the passage of time will serve to wear away these prejudices in the ports which have now been ceded to the conquerors.

MISCELLANY.

PROGRESS OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN PRUSSIA.

ONE of the most interesting events of the present day, is the establishment of a sort of National Representative Assembly for the Kingdom of Prussia, under the name of a meeting of committees of the provincial states. We propose here to give some account of the opening, and the proceedings of this Assembly. We shall confine our account of these proceedings chiefly to such as we find stated either in official, or semi-official publications, or resting on entirely satisfactory authority. The opening of the Assembly is thus described in the Prussian State Gazette, published at Berlin, of October 19:

“All the members of the committees of the provincial states having arrived at Berlin on the 17th, the solemn opening of the session took

place on the 18th in the hall of the palace assigned by the King for that purpose. As soon as the members of the Assembly had taken their places, a deputation, composed of several members, waited on the Ministers of State, to apprise them that the members had assembled at the palace. Count Arnim, Minister of the Interior, then proceeded to the palace, and opened the session with the following speech :

“Princes and Gentlemen : His Majesty has appointed me to open the session of the committees of the states, conformable to the Cabinet order of the 19th of August last. Two years have elapsed since you assembled round the throne at the King's invitation, to renew solemnly, in the venerated capital of ancient Prussia, and in this same place, the bonds of the King's love, and of the unalterable fidelity of his subjects. You have responded to this appeal joyfully, and there is no one amongst us who has not preserved the most lively recollection of those days when the legitimate Sovereign addressed his faithful people, and united them by the indissoluble bonds of love and of respect. He has at present again summoned the representatives of the provinces, and they have again cheerfully assembled round the steps of the throne. The unanimity with which Prussia, at the moment of taking the oath of allegiance, repeated to its King the sacramental affirmation, the long and loud echo of which was heard in the most remote provinces of the kingdom, that unanimity which, with the Divine assistance, has so materially contributed to the maintenance of peace,—that same unity forms the element of your present meeting. The provinces of Prussia are united in their love for the King, whenever it may be necessary to protect the national independence. The King confidently expects, that the same unanimity will attend the deliberations of this assembly at a time when his sagacious will, through pure Royal grace, has carried into effect this important complement of the institution of the states, by assembling the several councils. On those points where the opinions of the provincial states are divided, the session of the committees will unite and conciliate them. Whenever it shall be necessary to determine what are the wants of the country, the committees will point them out. Whenever it may be necessary for the King's Government to consult the states on questions of administration by means of an organ, the committees shall be the medium. No doubt, different opinions will be displayed in this assembly, and they will no doubt be debated with force and conviction, and the general good requires that it should be so. But, whenever such a difference of opinion arises, this fraternal contest should be conducted with a view to the general welfare of Prussia, which is common to all, and with a recollection that we are assembled here as members of the same body politic, as faithful subjects of the same King. On this, the first day of your assembling, the King's will has, from the height of the throne, offered you with full liberty a gift of the most noble confidence. For that reason, this day will be ever remarkable as the most glorious of the reign of Frederick William IV. It will likewise be remarked in the annals of Prussia as one of the most happy. It will be a day of joyous recollection for the King, who has given it to us, and it will afford a flattering pledge to those, who by the confidence of the King and that of

their provinces, have been for the first time invited to assemble round him. We have a sure guarantee of this in the tried zeal with which you will devote yourself to the accomplishment of your commission as faithful and conscientious subjects in the sacrifice of your private interests whenever the public good shall require it, and by the unanimity of your resolutions. A vast field is opened to you; may it, by your honest zeal, and the Divine benediction, produce happy fruits."

After the Prince of Solms, as Marshal of the committees, replied in suitable terms, the chamber resounded with cries of "Long live the King." The assembly then adjourned until the 21st.

With a view of explaining, in some degree, the character of this assembly, and the object of the King of Prussia in establishing it, we copy the following remarks from a London journal, firmly devoted to the support of a monarchical form of government:

"The coming constitution of Prussia is a subject which must be looked to throughout Europe as one of the most interesting political facts of the day. Taking men as they are, it is entirely visionary to suppose, that those who can, and who know that they can, at any moment, extort a share in the supreme administration of the state, will not, sooner or later, proceed to do so; and the Prussian policy, by at once turning the entire nation into one standing army, and diffusing through that whole mass a healthy or unhealthy intelligence, including, of course, a knowledge of their own power; the capability to unite effectually for a given object, and a confidence in their own capacity for government, has, of course, decided with whom the power of that country shall *ultimately* rest. The force, indeed, which has been created, has not yet shown itself; nor will it do so, as long as the country is administered by a deservedly popular sovereign, and according to the national will. But these are conditions which never can be fulfilled for many generations together. An age must come of bad governors or unruly subjects; of real or of fancied grievance, and then the effective physical force,—effective, whether from number, combination, courage, or energy,—effective physical force, we say, whether by demonstration or by act; whether by right or by wrong; whether by convulsion or by encroachment, will unfailingly take what it can. Real *must*, sooner or later, become constitutional power; *must* assert and legalize itself; and the long-sighted statesman, if he wishes to avoid a convulsion, must take measures either for checking its growth, or forestalling its demands.

"The Prussian Government adopts the latter alternative. The monarch of that kingdom is gradually investing his people with that influence which their position as an intelligent standing army,—we do not say entitled them to,—but invited and enabled them to appropriate. He hopes peaceably to anticipate those conflicts for power, through which a body which he and his father have informed and organized would in the days of his son or his grandson have infallibly risen to power. The operation is a delicate, and must be a long one. To a political observer it carries all the excitement of an experiment, and all the deep interest of a massive fact of history. It may, indeed, prove abortive or mischievous. It may happen, that the growing constitution may turn out to be all fire

or all smoke: the latter, if it attempts to impose upon a people a mode of self-government which is not the natural expression of their habits and desires; the former, if it furnishes vent and fuel to a popular ambition, hitherto happily latent. We anticipate, at any rate for the present, neither the one nor the other result. The active mind of the Germans, unpractical though it be, will scarcely allow that any opportunity of assembling for the free communication of political ideas should prove a nullity. With whatever paper forms it may be entangled, the fact of this communication and discussion remains, and must form the germ of important movements. The popularity of the King; the anti-Gallican, (and therein anti-republican,) feeling which pervades his country; the fact, that this concession is made from strength, and not from weakness, and the practical qualifications by which it is accompanied, — all preclude the notion of present danger to the existing order of things. The remote future, of course, depends in a great measure upon itself."

After some proceedings of no great interest, the Minister of Finance made a communication to the committees, in which are contained the following statement:

"The annual estimates relative to revenue and expenditure, which, according to the existing regulation, are to be published every three years, are made up from the special estimates of the several departments. These special estimates, of which annually about the third part, and each time for a period of three years, is made up afresh, are mainly based upon average calculations of the results of the several administrations during the three years preceding the former term, so that the main estimates of every year are based upon the result of a six years' experience. . . .

"The estimates prepared upon this principle of the current revenue and expenditure for the year 1841, show a surplus of \$2,136,000, [1,410,000 American dollars.] Of these, \$1,000,000 will be required to cover deficiencies in the revenue, and some extraordinary expenses, and \$350,000 for gifts of various kinds made by the Crown. In the last named item are included the sums constantly given by the King towards the erection of schools and churches. There will then remain, for the year 1841, a real surplus of only \$786,000 to augment the reserved fund of the state.

"For the year 1842, the returns show a surplus of \$3,097,000, which, after allowing for similar deductions, will leave a net surplus of \$1,747,000 for the augmentation of the reserved fund.

"The material increase, as compared with the net surplus of 1841, is owing to the circumstance that the latter is based on the administrative results of the six years 1835 - 1840, of which the first, in consequence of the Customs' League having just before come into force, experienced an important decrease in the revenue derived from the customs, a decrease which operates unfavorably upon the average calculation.

"For the year 1843 the estimates have not yet been made up, but it may already be assumed, that, partly by the operation of the sinking fund, and partly in consequence of the reduction lately effected in the interest on the public debt, there will be a reduction of \$1,200,000 in

the expenditure for 1843. Add this amount to the estimated surplus of 1842, and there will be a net surplus of \$2,947,000 to be anticipated for the year 1843, which, even after the proposed reduction of taxes to the extent of \$2,000,000, will still leave a net surplus of \$900,000. It is true, that several extraordinary expenses will be required in 1843, and, as has already been intimated to the states, the produce of the lottery will probably show a diminution of \$60,000. These contingencies, however, it may reasonably be anticipated, will be compensated by an increased consumption consequent on the said reduction of taxes, in which case a net surplus of \$900,000 will still remain for the year 1843."

The committees were entirely occupied in their sittings of October 22 and 23, in the consideration of the great system of railroads proposed to be executed under the guarantee of the Government, of a certain dividend on the capital invested. The Minister of Finance, in a speech, developed the plan of the Government, and pointed out the great advantages which Prussia, more, perhaps, than any other country, might anticipate from the realization of this extensive system of railroads. The disadvantages of her geographical position, he said, would in a great measure be remedied, while the facility given to internal communication would act as a material protection to domestic industry against foreign competition.

The members were then successively called upon to express their opinions, and though for the general principle of the proposition there was all but unanimity, yet a number of doubts and hesitations arose as to the details of the plan. Several members, while they admitted the importance of railroads, insisted upon it that the improvement of the common roads was a matter of at least equal moment. Some were for giving greater extension to the proposed plan, others for confining it within narrower limits. By some it was questioned whether the establishment of a railroad in the province of Posen was at all to be wished for. Several members also expressed their belief, that on many of the proposed railroads the income would be very inadequate, and the government would in consequence have to incur, with respect to those railroads, a permanent outlay.

The great majority of the assembly, however, were zealous in advocating the general advantages to be looked for from a comprehensive system such as had been proposed, and urged the danger in which Prussia would be placed if she allowed other nations to get the start of her in the march of improvement. Among other advantages to be anticipated would be this, that with a good system of railroads, the whole monarchy of Prussia would be supplied with salt from the provinces of Saxony and Westphalia, whereas at present several of the more distant provinces stood indebted for their supply to foreign countries.

The Presiding Minister declared that the opinion of government coincided entirely with that of the members who had advocated the equal importance of the more ordinary means of internal communication. Indeed, the experience of other countries showed that the establishment of railroads did not tend to diminish the traffic on roads running parallel

with them, while on those roads leading to railroads the traffic had greatly increased. In support of this view, reference was made by one member to the astonishing increase in the navigation on the Elbe, between Hamburg and Magdeburg, since the opening of the railroads between the latter city and Leipsic, Dresden, and Berlin.

The discussion having been exhausted, the Presiding Minister summed up the debate, and, in conclusion, demanded from the assembly an answer to the following question :

"Is the execution of a system of railroads, to connect the centre of the Prussian monarchy with the provinces, and these with one another, and which at the same time, in its main lines, shall communicate with foreign countries, looked upon as an urgent necessity?"

The ninety-eight members present were then each in succession called on to answer "yes" or "no" to this question, when there appeared ninety ayes and eight noes.

At the sitting of the committees of states on the 27th ult., the attention of the members was directed to the consideration of the question, whether the state should guaranty the interest on the capital to be expended in the construction of the contemplated system of railroads.

The question submitted to the assembly was —

"Whether they deemed it necessary and expedient that the state should endeavor to bring about the construction of the system of railroads, already admitted to be necessary, by guarantying the interest on the capital to be expended?"

Several members urged, that all the advantages anticipated could be realized only in case the state would itself undertake the construction. A motion to that effect, however, the Minister of Finance, who presided, would not allow to be put, declaring,

"That the government had come to a determination, for the present, (*für jetzt und für die nächste Zukunft*,) not to construct railroads at the cost of the state, and that the King had not authorized him to consult the states on this subject."

On the other hand, the Minister made no objection to putting the question —

"Whether it was the wish of the Assembly that the opinion referred to should be entered on the minutes, in order that in that way the views of the members might be brought under the notice of his Majesty?"

There were not wanting many members, who declared themselves altogether against the construction of railroads by the state, as likely to encumber the state with a large additional debt, whereas, by throwing open the works to public competition, a large amount of foreign capital would be drawn into the country. It was quite as easy to obtain security for the execution of the works from private companies, as from the state, since the government, in guarantying the interest on the capital, would be in a position to insist on the necessary guarantee from the companies. The same argument would apply to the personal security of the travellers.

The Minister was again urged to allow the question on this point to be put in a more distinct manner, but to this he refused his assent.

Some members were opposed to the guarantee of interest, connected as it was with a prospective augmentation on the price of salt. Others urged the policy of limiting the guarantee to a stated number of years. The Minister said, that this point would be more suitably discussed at a subsequent stage; at the same time he gave it to be understood, that the Government were in favor of a permanent guarantee.

Some declared themselves hostile to the very principle of a state guarantee of the interest, inasmuch as it was not to be anticipated that the railroads would ever pay a profit; that, therefore, the state would be burdened with a permanent increase of expenditure, that would absorb every surplus of revenue, and eventually compel the government to cancel the reduction about to be made on the price of salt. It was contended, also, that the guarantee of the interest would be, to all intents and purposes, an augmentation of the national debt, a measure which, according to the law of the 17th of January, 1820, was not to be adopted without the express sanction of the states. Taking that view of the case, the present assembly could not be deemed competent to give its sanction to a measure of such importance, which could, in fact, obtain a legal character only by being submitted for the approbation of the states.

These latter arguments were warmly combatted by the Minister, who endeavored to draw a distinction between a debtor and an individual who became security for a debtor. If this view, moreover, were correct, it would apply to every permanent expenditure that the state might take upon itself. Nor was the assembly now called together to give a sanction to a measure, but rather to enlighten his Majesty as to the wishes and wants of the country relative to matters, in the regulation of which his Majesty was liable to no control. The Minister continued, for some time, to express himself in this sense, and then proceeded to show the inexpediency of undertaking the construction of railroads, as a public work, and at the expense of the state. At the conclusion of his speech, he put the question, whether the meeting held it necessary and expedient, that the state should endeavor to secure the construction of the wished for railroads, by offering to guaranty the interest on the necessary capital?

The division then took place, when the members from the several provinces voted as follows:

	Ayes.	Noes.
Prussia,	10	2
Brandenburg,	7	5
Pomerania,	11	0
Silesia,	12	0
Posen,	12	0
Saxony,	10	2
Westphalia,	10	2
The Rhine Provinces,	11	3
Total,	83	14

The question was then put: "Whether the Assembly wished to have the opinion entered on the minutes, that they would have preferred to see these railroads executed by the state itself, and whether they would have voted for the adoption of such a principle, if the government had

not declared its determination not, for the present, to undertake any such works on its own account?"

On this question the result of the division was as follows :

	Ayes.	Noes.
Prussia,	12	0
Brandenburg,	1	11
Pomerania,	11	0
Silesia,	1	11
Posen,	5	7
Saxony,	2	10
Westphalia,	5	7
The Rhine,	10	4
Total,	47	50

The next question, to the consideration of which the Assembly proceeded, was

"Whether it would be consistent with the wishes of the country to undertake the said guarantee of the interest on the capital, subject to the contingency of a re-augmentation in the price of salt?"

The Minister argued the necessity of providing for the contingent emergency referred to, but declared himself ready to modify the question in such a manner, that there should be merely an augmentation of taxes generally to the extent of the reduction now contemplated, without specifying whether that augmentation should be in the shape of a higher price for salt.

The ordonnance by which it was ordered the committees of provincial states should be assembled, charged the Minister of the Interior with the duty of appointing the times and places of their assembling, directed that the assembly should be opened by the said minister, and established the rules by which their proceedings should be governed. This ordonnance is dated August 10, 1842, but it was not published until after the assembling of the committees. The following is the substance of these rules :

Art. 1. The chief of the department or the province where the object of the deliberation exists, must conduct the deliberation as royal commissary. He is supported in his function by a marshal, chosen from the members by the King.

2. The King will also choose the secretaries.

3. All communications to the commission come from the government through the home minister. The article mentions other forms.

4. The minister arranges the order of deliberation, if more than one proposition be presented.

5. The members for each province will assist.

6. A memoir on each question shall be presented to each member previous to discussion, and a project of the law, if such be proposed.

7. The deliberation opens by a statement, which the chiefs of departments get prepared, containing general considerations ; but explanations may be joined to the statement.

8. Members are called on alphabetically to give their opinion. Each can speak but once, and on the question exclusively, else he will be called to order by the marshal. But the chiefs of departments can speak as often as they please.

9. Orators can only address the chiefs of departments, not the person they may wish to refute.

10. A chief of department is judge of whether a summary of the discussion need be taken or not.

11. There are times of free discussion, when each member can speak as often as he pleases; and the marshal points out who shall speak when two have risen at the same time.

12. The marshal closes the debate when no one demands to speak. He may also close the discussion, unless three members should demand a vote as to the continuance or not of the debate.

13. After the debate, the chief of department puts the vote and states it.

14. No vote is necessary when there has been no divergence of opinion.

15. Votes are to be given alphabetically, but different letters beginning at different times in rotation.

16. A summary of the deliberations and the results will be drawn up. The summary is to contain, besides the statement of the discussion, 1. An account of the different opinions, (without entering into a detail of the arguments of the several members,) as well as observations made by the head of the department, or by the *employés* present, either to give explanations or to rectify errors. The names of the orators to be inserted after the summary. 2. The questions upon which the assembly shall have voted, and that in positive terms. 3. The result of the vote, as well as the vote of each committee.

17. The summary is to be read over in the next sitting for observation and assent.

18. The summary is to be sent to the Minister of State.

19. The final act shall not be published, but the home minister closes the assembly.

By the Ministry of State.

PRINCE OF PRUSSIA.

DE BOYEN.

MUHLER.

DE ROCHOW.

DE NAGLER.

DE LADENBERG.

ROTHER, Count of Alvensleben.

EICHHORN.

DE THILE.

DE SAVIGNY.

DE BULOW.

DE BODELSCHWINGH.

COUNT OF STOLBERG.

COUNT OF ARNIM.

These names are deserving of note as showing who are the individuals at present composing the Council, called the Ministry of State. This council, (see *Mon. Chron.* Vol. II. p. 5,) consists of members specially designated, is distinct from the council of ministers of departments, and forms a part of the council of state.

Upon these regulations an English writer remarks, that they present a curious aspect, as showing the kind of limitations under which it is supposed possible that a German popular assembly will be content to carry on its deliberations, and adds, that "however inconsistent with English notions of the natural working of a popular assembly, we believe these limitations to be at present wise and salutary. They will not last;

it is probably not intended that they should ; but they will give to those accustomed to the transaction of public business the power of moderating and guiding the efforts of this new power in the Prussian state, till time and the habits of the people, and the force of exigencies, and the practical wisdom of statesmen, shall have more definitely fixed its character and direction."

It may be interesting here to present the remarks of one of the leading Paris journals, on this experiment in representative government. We copy from the *Journal des Debats*. "This experiment seems to have very imperfectly answered the expectations to which it gave birth on the other side of the Rhine. Those who examined with any degree of attention the composition of that body, and the very restricted powers conceded to it, could not possibly have regarded it as even the semblance of a Legislative Chamber ; it was clear that the King of Prussia wished merely to found a sort of Council of State, whose business would be to examine and work out questions of a purely administrative nature, without being invested with any initiative in matters of legislation. But Prussia, recollecting promises made in 1814 and 1815, and since that period having seen the secondary States around her successively obtaining from their sovereigns charters and legislative chambers, flattered herself that the establishment of a committee of provincial states was a pledge for the approaching foundation of General States, and she greeted this first concession of the Royal prerogative as a step towards the realization of her constitutional hopes.

"These impressions must have been banished by the first deliberations of the new Assembly ; and there is a remarkable contrast between the curiosity and interest at first excited by the promulgation of the Royal Ordinances, and the almost total indifference manifested to the sittings of the committee. The very insignificant minutes which have been published on the result of these deliberations, show the extent of the intervention awarded by the Government to the delegates of the States in the affairs of the kingdom ; the ministers of each department have put to them some questions respecting the timeliness of certain measures ; but the votes collected have been only in the form of opinions, which the Executive power may adopt or neglect at discretion.

"It is not our intention to find fault with the institution or the composition of the Committee of the States. We are not warm advocates of improvised legislation, and we think that laws should be successively adapted to the manners of the people for whom they are destined. The King of Prussia certainly cannot be reproached with wishing to give to his people a constitutional education, before granting to them prematurely and inconsiderately institutions which have become, (though they were not always,) foreign to their political habits ; and, in spite of the calculated timidity of the experiment he is now trying, it must nevertheless be regarded as a germ which will gradually enlarge, and one day or other ripen into a system of government similar to those of the western Powers of Europe. At present, however, it would be difficult to establish any comparison between the new Assembly which has met at Berlin, and the deliberative assemblies of France and England. A cursory glance at the

forms of deliberation determined by the ordinance of the King of Prussia, is sufficient to afford an idea of the restrictions imposed on the liberty of discussion in the Committee of the States. The Royal prerogative maintains undivided sway in the regulations. The President, who has the title of Marshal, is appointed by the King; and it is he who, as in France and England, maintains order in the sittings. In our assemblies, any member may obtain leave to present a plan of law; in Prussia, the Ministers alone possess the right of taking the lead in the deliberations. The debate is opened by the head of the department whence the order of the day emanates. Previously to the discussion, each member receives a memorial explanatory of the question to be proposed, and the head of the department has, as Royal Commissioner, the direction of the debate. Each member is allowed to speak only once; and then he must confine himself exclusively to the question under consideration; but the Ministers, as in France, may speak as often as they think fit. It is curious to observe the different modes in which the privilege of speaking is distributed in Paris, in London, and in Berlin. In England, the Speaker possesses almost discretionary authority on this point. When any member of the House of Commons has finished his speech, the Speaker looks round, and the first person whom he observes making a sign to him, has the privilege of addressing the House. It rarely happens that this simple and expeditive method leads to any dispute. In France we have the inscribing of turns. Every session we find some of our honorable members passing the night in the Salle des Conférences, in order to get themselves inscribed for or against the address, and not unfrequently taking all this trouble for the sake of reading a written improvisation, which nobody listens to. Possibly the English method has the effect of giving a more natural and sincere tone to the discussion. It is true, there prevails in the English Parliament a feeling of conventional hierarchy, which makes secondary speakers readily give place to the acknowledged leaders of their party. It is true, that the Speaker of the House of Commons, being elected for the whole duration of the Parliament, must be more completely independent of party influence than a President subject every year to the chances of reëlection, which renders more acceptable the sort of dictatorship. But after all, we ourselves may, perhaps, end in having parties and party leaders, and in ceasing to be jealous of authority, even that which we delegate. In Prussia, even more than in France, forms operate to check the ease and spontaneity of discussion. There the speaking turns succeed one to another with mathematical precision. Each member, as has already been observed, can speak only once, and moreover he can speak only in alphabetic order. Consequently there is no discussion, but merely an explanation of the reasons on which the votes are founded.

"As to publicity, it is not to be spoken of. The minutes of the deliberation consist simply of a summary drawn up under the control of one of the Secretaries of State. The names of the speakers are inserted at the end of the summary with the votes.

"It must be observed, however, that the publicity of debates is always the last concession granted by deliberative assemblies. In England, to this day, it exists only by toleration, and in theory it is a violation of the

privileges of Parliament. It cannot, therefore, be matter of astonishment that Prussia, at her debut in the Parliamentary career, should not be further advanced than nations more practiced in those matters. In short, the most important consideration in reference to the establishment of the Committee of the Prussian States is not the immediate result of that constitutional experiment, but the liberal intention it denotes, and the hope it affords for the future."

The committees brought their labors to a close on the 10th of November. They met for the purpose of approving the minutes of the preceding session. The Ministry of State were then introduced into the Assembly by a deputation of members. The Minister of the Interior and Royal Commissioner, Count Arnim, made an address, in terms of approbation of their labors, to which the Prince Solms, the Marshal of the Committees, replied. The Minister then, in the name of the King, declared the Assembly closed.

The members were then conducted to the King's apartment, who addressed them to the following effect :

"On receiving the committees at the time of their convocation, I did not think it consistent to address them in a body, as I could only express the confidence I had in them, or give them advice. So much abuse is made in these times of the word confidence, that I did not think it fit to be employed on that occasion; and, more particularly, as the act alone of constituting the committees was the highest proof that could be given of Royal confidence; and to have offered counsel to them would, as it appeared to me, have been equally misplaced. But now, that their labors are brought to a close, it becomes my duty to present my grateful thanks to them. Finding myself surrounded by deputies from all the provinces, my heart cannot refrain from opening itself to them in all candor. Since 1823, I have followed, with the greatest attention and interest, and, I may even say, with peculiar predilection, the proceedings of the States through all their developments. I created the Committees of the States, first, to form a point of centralization, which, otherwise, according to our constitution, would not have been possible; and, secondly, to discuss matters affecting the welfare of the country. I am of opinion, that every deliberative assembly, be it council of arrondissement, or of commune, or of province, or committee, or all the committees united, possess a double character, and I deem it proper to express to the assembly before me my way of thinking on this point. The assemblies of the states, first, are representatives of their own privileges and of those of the states who have elected them; and, secondly, they are councillors of the crown, but with such an independence of action as would be sought for in vain elsewhere; for, to their own independence is joined that of the persons who have chosen them. This is a truth, of which every deputy must be fully convinced; but he ought also to be fully aware of another truth, that he is not the representative of a party. I perceived with satisfaction that this spirit prevailed in the Assembly of the States from the period of their existence. It was particularly manifested to me in the last session of the States, and it afforded me infinite pleasure. I charge all the persons here present, when they return, and find themselves in the midst of the assem-

blies which elected them, to express to them all my gratitude. This is what I was anxious to say to you; and I desire further to offer you my sincere thanks for the spirit which has animated your deliberations, and for your having so happily responded to my confidence."

After this address, the King entered into familiar conversation with the members, and they dispersed much pleased with the cordiality of the interview. The members received from the Treasury at the rate of three rix dollars per day for their attendance, and one dollar and ten groschen for each post mile of travel from and to their respective residences.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF RUSSIA.

THE Journal de St. Petersburg publishes the following returns of the exports and imports of Russia in the year 1841:

	Silver Roubles.
Exports — To foreign countries, . . .	86,382,179
To Finland,	1,349,192
To Poland,	2,034,739
Total,	89,766,110
Imports — From foreign countries, . . .	79,429,490
From Finland,	551,558
From Poland,	820,541
Total,	80,801,589
Balance in favor of Russia,	8,964,521
Total of foreign exports, from 1838 to 1841, exclusive of corn:	
	Silver Roubles.
In 1838,	70,562,252
1839,	69,640,761
1840,	68,704,971
1841,	75,999,670

The increase which took place in 1841 is accounted for by the extraordinary developement of the relations between Russia and China during that year. The latter had never before sent so large a quantity of tea to the market of Kiakhta, so that the importation of that article, although very considerable during the preceding years, augmented in a remarkable proportion in 1841.

Total of imports from 1838 to 1841:

	Silver Roubles.
In 1838,	69,693,824
1839,	69,993,589
1840,	76,726,111
1841,	79,429,490

The gold and silver ingots or coin are not included in the above amounts. In 1841 the exports of precious metals were 4,023,728 silver roubles, and the imports 9,347,867.

The navigation was less active in 1841 than during the preceding year, the number of arrivals in all the Russian possessions having been —

Vessels laden,	2,596	measuring	452,760 tons.
Vessels in ballast,	2174	measuring	410,164 tons.
That of clearances from Russian harbors —			
Vessels laden,	4,582	measuring	819,232 tons.
Vessels in ballast,	312	measuring	58,046 tons.
<hr/>			
Total,	4,894	measuring	877,278

There arrived, moreover, at St. Petersburg, 82 steamers from Lubeck, Stockholm, London, and Havre; and in the Black Sea, 27 passages were made between Odessa and Constantinople, and 54 between the former and the southern coast of Crimea.

The coasting navigation presented in the northern seas a greater activity than during the previous year, whilst in the Black Sea there was a small diminution, the number of vessels which proceeded from one harbor to another having amounted, in the former, to 2,007, and in the latter, to 5,275.

The import duties, finally, produced the following amounts ;

	Silver Roubles.	Copecks.
Customs duties,	26,543,066	67
Duties on the salt proceeding from the salt lakes of Crimea,	124,981	91
Hire of stores, &c.	173,448	31
Additional duties in favor of several cities,	545,997	99
<hr/>		
Total,	27,387,494	88

The cost of collecting those duties amounted to 7 4-9 per cent. of the receipts.

THE GLACIARUM.

THIS is the name given to a novel and ingenious exhibition of artificial ice, placed on the spot forming a part of the lake attached to the Swiss Cottage, near London, where skaters may, on the most burning day of summer, enjoy and display all their graceful and exhilarating evolutions, without the fear of a sudden or frigid emersion. In order to give due effect to this extraordinary invention, M. P. Phillips, the artist, has been a long time employed in painting and forming such combinations of art and representative nature, as to realize as nearly as possible the characteristic and sublime features of the Alpine regions. Fearful precipices, rocky chasms, trees, &c., covered with hoar frost, and the chain of Alpine mountains covered with eternal snow, have been produced with a depth of pencil so true to nature, that the spectator appears at once to participate in the gloom and chilliness of the scenes by which he is surrounded. To those who would enjoy the sweets of travel without the fatigue, a visit to the Swiss Cottage will prove highly gratifying. — *London Paper.*

CHRONOLOGY.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, November 20. **THE NIGER EXPEDITION.** The following letter, dated at Cape Coast Castle, September 26, 1842, describes the winding up of the unfortunate Niger expedition:

"The Wilberforce, you will recollect, was here in March last, at which time Captain W. Allen was preparing to reascend the Niger, to look after the 'Model Farm' people, and if possible to do something to retrieve the fame of the expedition. He proceeded hence to Fernando Po, to fit out the Soudan, to accompany him. While he was still lying there the Kite steamer arrived with orders from Government, that only one vessel was to go up the river, and that she was only to have on board four or five white men at most. Her only object in going up was to be the bringing back the people left at the farm. On receiving these orders, Captain Allen and most of his officers and crew went on board the Kite for a passage to England. The other commissioner (Cook) went home by the Golden Spring. The Wilberforce, under charge of her present commander, (Lieutenant Webb,) proceeded up the river, and found the 'Model Farm' a very perfect model of disorganization. The blacks who had been left at it, having plenty of cowries, (a species of India shell used as money,) and goods, voted themselves to be independent country gentlemen, and managed to get hold of a lot of natives, whom they very coolly made slaves of, and whom they compelled to work on the farm, each gentleman being provided with a cat, or slave driver's whip, the better to enforce obedience. The model farmer himself, (Carr, brother of the Chief Justice of Sierra Leone,) has never been heard of, and had, as it afterwards appeared, been killed somewhere near the mouth of the river. The Wilberforce brought away farm implements, people and all, and those of the latter belonging to this place are now being discharged here. The steamer got on a rock in the river, where she remained five days, and came down with a

hole in her bottom, which now compels her to go home. So much for the last speech and dying words of the far-famed Niger expedition. A more mismanaged piece of business, from beginning to end, is not, I will venture to say, to be found recorded in any history."

LONDON, November 28. **BANK CIRCULATION IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.** Returns of promissory notes in circulation in the United Kingdom during the four weeks ending the 12th inst., compared with the returns for the same period last year:

	This Year 1842, Nov. 12.	Last Year 1841, Nov. 13.	In- crease.	De- crease.
ENGLAND.	£	£	£	£
B. of Eng- land,	20,104,000	17,065,000	3,039,000	
Priv. Banks,	5,434,822	6,288,723		853,901
Joint Stock Banks,	3,196,964	3,421,135		224,171
SCOTLAND.				
Chartered, Priv. & Joint Stock B'ks,	2,891,865	3,383,036		491,171
IRELAND.				
Bank of Ire- land,	3,163,200	3,333,375		170,175
Priv. & Joint Stock B'ks,	2,126,829	2,611,314		484,485
Bullion in the Bank,	9,997,000	4,218,000	5,689,000	

DOMESTIC.

BOSTON, December 2. **SHIPWRECKS.** The new bark Isadore, Captain Leander Foss, belonging to Kennebunk, Me. sailed thence on Wednesday morning, 30th ult., for New Orleans, and was totally lost in the ESE. gale, same night, on Maxwell's beach, near Cape Neddock, York, Me. Every person on board, fourteen or fifteen in number, perished! They were all young men belonging to Kennebunk. The vessel was of 395 tons burthen, was owned by several shipmasters of Kennebunk, including Captain Foss, was valued at \$22,500, and insured for \$22,000 at one office in this city. She probably had a small cargo of hay and potatoes, of no great value. Captain Foss was formerly master of bark Horace, of Kennebunk,

which vessel went ashore near the same place, two or three years since, Captain F. having put in on account of a mutiny among his crew, when on a voyage from New Orleans to Europe.

On the same night the schooner James Clark, Captain Beck, of and from St. John, N. B. via Portland, for Boston, went ashore on Rye Beach, New Hampshire, and six passengers perished. Their names were Daniel Mahoney; — Barry; a lady, and her daughter, five years old; a child of Mrs. Stewart, and a little girl, named Peggy. The vessel was a total loss, with her cargo of potatoes, old iron, and laths. Captain Beck was confined to his bed at Portsmouth; three of the crew have arrived in the city, a free passage having been given them on the Eastern Railroad.

BOSTON, December 3. MASSACHUSETTS BANKS. It appears from the abstract of Bank returns, made for the first Saturday in October, that the number and condition of Banks in Massachusetts, were as follows: The number of banks now in operation is 111, with an aggregate capital of \$32,631,060. This is a reduction in the amount of capital within the last year of \$128,740. The aggregate circulation of the 111 banks is \$8,049,906; of which amount, however, \$1,678,278 is in the possession of other banks, and thus taken out of circulation, leaving the actual circulation \$6,371,628. The amount of deposits not bearing interest is \$6,130,164.

The amount of specie in the banking houses, at the close of the day of the date of the returns, was \$2,682,309. The amount of notes, bills, and other securities discounted, was \$44,610,391.

The amount of circulation this year is less than by the return of last year, which was made in September, by \$1,278,837; the amount of deposits is less than last year, by \$864,676; the amount of specie is less by \$404,512, and the amount of securities discounted is less by 2,160,975.

BOSTON, Dec. 31. PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN BOSTON. The primary schools are under the direction of a Board, selected from the citizens at large for that service, which is performed gratuitously, and it may be judged with what fidelity, from the statement, that, within the last six months, the primary schools have received 1968 visits, and 798 examinations. There are

104 primary schools, containing

6541 pupils.

13 grammar schools, containing 6608 "
1 English High School, containing 136 "
1 Latin School, containing 120 "

Total, 13,405

in a population of 93,000 inhabitants. There are 37 male and 166 female teachers. The charge for the support of the Public Schools for the financial year 1841 '2, exclusive of the expense of erecting a new school house, was \$120,488, or the moderate charge of \$8.98 per annum, for each pupil.

BOSTON, December 31. PAUPERISM IN MASSACHUSETTS. An abstract, drawn up by the Secretary of State, of the returns made conformably to law, by the overseers of the Poor in the towns of Massachusetts, (four returns only being deficient,) for the twelve months ending November 1, 1842, shows the extent and method of operation of the pauper system in Massachusetts.

The number of persons relieved or supported as paupers in the Commonwealth during the year was 13,688; which is equal to 1 pauper to every 54 inhabitants. Of this number, 5,251 are State paupers, or persons having no legal settlement in any town in the State, and 2,805 of them are foreigners, of whom 2,302 are from Great Britain or Ireland. The number of paupers having legal settlements in towns of the Commonwealth is 8,521. The number relieved in Boston was 3,251, of whom 2,383 have no legal settlement in the State, and 1,365 were foreigners.

The number of almshouses in the State is 181, and the lands attached thereto amount to 17,811 acres. The estimated value of these almshouses and lands is \$900,281. The number of persons relieved in the almshouses in the course of the year, was 6,594; and the average number supported through the year, 3,968; the average weekly cost of their support being 83 cents. The average weekly cost in the Boston almshouse was 98 cents. The Boston almshouse establishment, including 42 acres of land, is valued at \$100,000.

The number of persons in almshouses unable to perform labor, was 2,949. The value of labor performed by paupers in almshouses, was \$26,509. The value of labor in the Boston almshouse, \$3,500. The number of persons aided and support

ed out of almshouses, was 6,822, of whom in Boston, 1,900. The average cost of such support, was 88 cents.

The number of insane persons received or supported at public charge, is 540; and of idiots, 338. The number of persons supposed to have been reduced to pauperism by intemperance in themselves or others, 7,154. The number of foreign paupers which came into the Commonwealth within the year, 445.

The aggregate amount of expense in supporting and relieving paupers, including interest on almshouse establishments, \$306,070, of which \$40,997 were paid by the Commonwealth for the support of State paupers.

BOSTON, December 31. **CATTLE MARKET AT BRIGHTON, NEAR BOSTON.** The following is the report of the several descriptions of animals sold at the Brighton market during the last year, and the four preceding years:

Animals sold in 1842.

32,070 Beef Cattle.	Sales estimated at \$1,246,940
17,126 Stores.	" " 256,890
106,655 Sheep.	" " 127,986
39,335 Swine.	" " 109,924

1841. \$1,741,740

36,607 Beef Cattle,	} Sales estimated at \$2,400,188
18,794 Stores,	
128,650 Sheep,	
31,872 Swine.	

1840.

34,160 Beef Cattle,	} Sales estimated at \$1,990,577
12,736 Stores,	
124,172 Sheep,	
32,350 Swine.	

1839.

23,263 Beef Cattle,	} Sales estimated at \$1,901,864
15,252 Stores,	
95,400 Sheep,	
26,088 Swine.	

1838.

25,830 Beef Cattle,	} Sales estimated at \$2,058,004
9,573 Stores,	
104,640 Sheep,	
26,104 Swine.	

The quantity of Flour and grain imported into Boston from other ports during the last year and the preceding five years, was as follows:

Year.	Bbls.	Bs.	Bs.	Bs.
	Flour.	Corn.	Oats.	Rye.
1842.	609,460	1,835,163	293,474	39,122
1841.	574,233	2,044,129	356,502	34,128
1840.	619,261	1,868,431	437,948	48,026
1839.	451,667	1,607,492	439,141	48,624
1838.	379,704	1,574,038	443,657	102,473
1837.	423,246	1,725,436	405,173	86,391

The import of Cotton at Boston during the past year amounted to 119,670 bales, of which from New Orleans 56,343 bales, Mobile 19,204, Charleston 19,556, Savannah 11,331, Florida 11,201, other ports 2,002. This is a decrease from the import

of the two preceding years, the aggregate of which was as follows:

1841.	131,860 bales.
1840.	138,709 "
1839.	94,361 "
1838.	96,636 "
1837.	82,684 "

The imports of Coal during the last year, from the South, 90,276 tons, and 121,800 bushels, of which 76,604 tons were from Philadelphia; English, 11,014 tons; Nova Scotia and Sydney, 18,460 chaldrons. Import in 1841, Philadelphia, &c. 110,932 tons, and 124,041 bushels; English, 12,754 tons; Nova Scotia and Sydney, 27,187 chaldrons.

Sugar imported at Boston:

	Brown, lbs.	White, lbs.
1842,	29,541,675	8,695,237
1841,	31,990,342	11,252,061
1840,	29,978,674	9,704,821

The vessels which arrived at Boston 1842 from foreign ports, were ships an barks 331, steamers 46, brigs 489, schooners 870, sloop 1, of which 880 were American, 829 British, and 28 under other foreign flags.

The arrivals, coastwise, were ships and barks 265, brigs 630, schooners 2,833, sloops 134. The number of arrivals for the last six years were as follows:

	Foreign.	Coastwise.
1842.	1,737	3,562
1841.	1,791	4,446
1840.	1,628	4,336
1839.	1,553	4,251
1838.	1,313	4,018
1837.	1,591	4,000

The clearances were:

	Ships & Brigs.	Schrs.	Spls.	St'ss.
	Barks.			
For'n,	228	423	822	1 47
C'wise,	372	509	1423	75
	600	932	2245	76 47

	Foreign.	Coastwise.
Total, 1842,	1,521	2,379
" 1841,	1,569	2,888
" 1840,	1,337	2,815
" 1839,	1,381	2,803
" 1838,	1,124	2,901
" 1837,	1,381	2,506

NEW YORK, December 15. The U. S. brig Somers arrived from St. Thomas, at which port she had touched on her return from Liberia, whither she sailed in September last, from the United States. Three or four days after her return, there transpired the intelligence of a mutiny which had been detected on board of her, before her arrival at St. Thomas. The plan of the mutineers had been to capture

the vessel, to kill the officers, and to cruise as pirates in her. She is a vessel of 10 guns, and an excellent sailer. Her crew consisted of 18 seamen and 80 apprentices. Lieutenant A. S. McKenzie, her commander, with great energy and decision, at once arrested several who appeared to be active in the plan, among others Midshipman Philip A. Spencer, who is supposed to have contrived it. These measures not checking the apparent disaffection however, by the advice of his officers, he commanded, on the 1st of December, the execution of Spencer, and two seamen, Cromwell and Small, who had also been arrested. This very decisive course put an end to the mutiny.

A court of inquiry was at once ordered by Government, which began its sessions in the North Carolina man-of-war, in New York harbor, on the 30th of December. The distressing particulars of the event have already been published so widely, that we do not consider it necessary to add any further details in the Chronicle.

WASHINGTON, December 30. COMMERCE OF 1842. According to statements of the Register of the Treasury, which accompany the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury, the amount in value of imports to the United States in the year ending September 30, 1842, was \$99,357,399; and the amount of exports \$104,117,969. Of the latter, \$11,558,831 in value consisted of foreign products, and \$92,569,088 of domestic produce. These statements, so far as they regard the items for the last quarter of the year, are founded partly on estimates.

This amount of imports is less than in any year since 1830, and what is a more striking proof of the diminution of business, although this year followed two years of diminished imports, the amount is less by \$34,000,000 than the average of annual imports for the preceding ten years. It is a little singular, that in the last quarter reported, namely, the third quarter of 1842, in two months of which the import duties were regulated by the reduced tariff of the compromise act, and when consequently lower rates were charged than in any other period for the last thirty years, the amount of imports was less than in any quarter for the last ten years.

The falling off of exports in 1832, compared with those of preceding years, was not so great as that of imports. The amount, however, was less than in any

year for the last preceding eight years. The amount of duties raised in 1842 was greater than might have been expected, namely, \$18,260,830. This amount is larger than that of duties received in either of the two preceding years, and larger than the receipts in any of the preceding eight years, with three exceptions.

NANTUCKET, December 30. Importations of Sperm and Whale Oil into the United States during the year 1842 furnished by Mr. Thomas Cross:

Ports.	Ships.	Brigs. Schrs.	Tons.	Bbls. Spm.	Bbls. Whale
Nantucket	14	2	4,972	26,329	600
Edgartown	2	4	817	2,267	18
Holmes's Hole	1		358	800	2,200
New Bedford	68	4	20,365	71,593	51,112
Fairhaven	14		4,241	14,480	13,180
Dartmouth	1		306	1,150	800
Westport	6	3	1,477	2,640	160
Mattapoisett	3	5	1,388	3,070	250
Sippican		2	251	340	20
Wareham	1	3	651	1,240	2,200
Fall River	2	1	618	2,350	1,100
Somerset		1	137	230	
Plymouth		4	382	526	8
Salem	6		1,634	7,450	2,300
Boston	5	3	1,860	7,914	4,781
Falmouth	1		187	300	
Provincetown	2	8	1,129	1,570	165
Portsmouth,	1		348	470	1,830
Newport	2	2	927	3,960	870
Bristol	2		683	420	2,400
Warren	3	2	1,251	1,800	258
New London	16	6	5,738	4,318	28,494
Stonington	3	1	1,089	750	6,450
Mystic	3		965	775	5,925
Sagharbor	13		4,052	3,790	24,480
Greenport	1	1	405	730	675
Bridgeport	2		554	23	3,470
Cold Spring	1		250		1,850
New York	3	1	1,211	2,195	8,300
Bucksport		1	100	110	
Total	176	54	58,346	163,097	163,815
Importation of 1841, .				160,524	205,677

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

Monday, the 5th of December, was the day prescribed by the law for the beginning of the third session of the twenty-seventh Congress. On that day a quorum of the House of Representatives appeared, and in that body one or two matters of form were transacted. A recent violent snow-storm had so interfered with the travelling in the Northern States, that comparatively few members were present at Washington, and no quorum of the Senate appeared until Tuesday. On Wednesday, the President sent to Congress his annual Message, together with the reports of the heads of departments.

The President began by alluding to the improvement made by the recent treaty with Great Britain in the aspect of our

foreign affairs. He alluded to the questions yet unsettled with that country, and particularly to that of the Northwestern Boundary, to which he proposed to call the attention of the English government. The commissioners on the claims of our citizens upon Mexico had made their final report, allowing claims to the amount of \$2,026,079, which our Minister at Mexico has been directed to demand. He recommended the adoption of a warehousing system, and urges strong reasons in favor of it. He recommended to Congress, if they should deem it proper to revise the tariff of duties, to bear in mind the suggestions heretofore made by him on that subject, particularly moderate duties, and a judicious discrimination. He announced a great reduction in the expenses of the military department. He recommended a sale of the mineral lands; also improvements of the Western waters, embracing harbors on the lakes, and the removal of obstructions in the Mississippi. He recommended strongly to Congress the adoption of the Exchequer scheme, which was submitted by him at the last session, (*Mon. Chron.* Vol. II. p. 565,) and without suggesting any material modifications. He went into an argument in answer to objections which have been made to the scheme, and to demonstrate its advantages. He assumed it to be "conclusively settled," that there cannot be issues of national paper by a chartered institution. He urged the advantages of the Exchequer scheme, both in affording a general currency, so much needed to maintain the internal trade, and in affording to the government a financial resource, to the amount probably of \$10,000,000. In speaking of the necessity of this resource, he gave a most melancholy exhibition of the prostrated credit of the country.

The Message concluded with recommending the reimbursement to General Jackson, of the fine imposed on him in 1815, for a contempt of Court, in imprisoning a Judge of a District Court of the United States, under color of military authority.

The President also gave some information as to the state of the different departments, which will be found more in detail in the abstract of their reports, which we proceed to give.

The Secretary of the Treasury stated in his report, that the receipts into the Treasury during the three first quarters of the present year, amount to \$26,616,593,78, namely:

From Customs,	14,360,830,35	
From Lands,	1,091,638,95	
From miscellaneous and incidental sources,	112,967,17	
From Treasury Notes, per Act 15th Feb. 1841,	1,060,206,05	
From Treasury Notes, per Act 31st Jan. 1842,	7,794,821,59	
From Loan of 1841 and 1842,	2,296,129,67	
The receipts of the fourth quarter it is estimated will amount to		7,886,000,00
Namely: From Customs,	4,000,000,00	
From Land,	366,900,00	
From miscellaneous and incidental sources,	20,000,00	
From Treasury Notes,	2,500,000,00	
From Loan,	11,000,000,00	
Making the total estimate for the year		34,502,593,78
And with the balance in the Treasury on the 1st January last, (230,483,68,) an aggregate of		34,733,077,46
The expenditures for the three first quarters of the present year, have amounted to		
		26,264,882,20
Namely: Civil list, foreign intercourse, and miscellaneous,	4,371,933,93	
Army, fortifications, pensions, fulfilment of Indian treaties, suppressing Indian hostilities, &c.	7,065,035,95	
Naval Service,	6,717,084,17	
Treasury Notes redeemed, including interest,	7,856,400,35	
Public debt, including interest on the loan,	254,427,80	
The expenditures for the fourth quarter, are estimated on data furnished by the respective departments,		8,238,278,15
Total of expenditures, 1842,		\$35,308,634,38
Deficiency, Dec. 31, 1842,		575,556,92
The Secretary estimated the receipts for the first six months of 1843 at	\$14,588,113,45	
The expenses, (including the above deficiency,) at	10,956,743,68	
Balance, July 1, 1843,	3,731,369,77	
He estimates the revenue of the next year at	18,850,000,00	
	21,581,369,77	
The expenses at	20,945,498,76	
Balance, July 1, 1844,	635,871,01	

Besides these estimates, the report contained a recommendation of a warehouse system, substantiated by high mercantile authority. The Secretary spoke of the tariff, and argued that its results could not yet be satisfactorily ascertained. He hint-

ed that the maintenance of public credit required some increase of revenue, which could easily be obtained by new duties.

The *Postmaster General* stated in his report that the whole amount of mail transportation for the year ending June 30, 1842, was 34,835,991 miles,

At a contract cost of \$3,087,991
The transportation in the preceding year having been 34,996,525 miles.

At a contract cost of \$3,159,375

The service now performed requiring the labors of 13,633 postmasters, with their clerks, and 2,343 contractors, with their agents. The expenditures had been reduced, by a reduction of unproductive routes, and the institution of a system for the preservation of the public property used by the department. As an illustration of the efficacy of this system, it was mentioned that a saving of nearly \$30,000 had been effected in the single article of mail-bags.

The revenue for the year ending June 30, 1842, was \$4,546,246

The gross expenditures for the same time, 4,627,716

The revenue had increased \$166,928 from the preceding year.

Of the appropriation made by Congress in Sept. 1841, to meet the then existing debts of the Post-Office Department, \$392,664 have been expended; \$89,992 yet remain to satisfy such other demands as may be proved to have been due in March, 1841. This sum of \$392,664 is not included in the revenue mentioned above, but is included in the expenditures, so that the apparent surplus on the 1st of July last, was \$311,194. This surplus will be considerably diminished by accounts yet to be audited. It appears probable, however, that henceforth the Post-Office may, under proper management, meet its own expenses.

Every demand on the Department has been promptly paid. Postmasters who have not paid their balances at sight of the drafts of the General Post-Office, "have been relieved from the burdens of official duty."

After these statements, the Postmaster proceeded to some recommendations on the modification of the franking privilege; on the reduction of the rates of postage, on which he promised a specific report; on the *extra-mail* carriage of mail matter; on the purchasing from railroads the perpetual right to send the mails by them; and some statements with regard

to the city despatch post in New York. An agent has been employed in England and France during the last year to collect statistics concerning the rates of postage and the establishment of steam-packets between Havre and New York.

The *Secretary of War* estimated all the demands of his Department for the first six months of 1843 at \$620,949. This is a great reduction on the requisitions of previous years, arising partly from the termination of the Florida war, and partly from the use of balances, unexpended during the past year, from fear that the state of the treasury would not permit heavy drafts at that time. The demands for this department for the year commencing July 1, 1843, were \$4,144,154

It appears from the Secretary's report that the regular force now authorized by law, is as follows, namely:

Commissioned Officers,	717
Storekeepers,	17
Men enlisted for the Ordnance,	250
Non-commissioned officers, musicians, artificers, and privates,	7,590
Chaplains and schoolmasters,	20
	<hr/>
	8,594

Besides this number of men, the law authorizes as many ordnance sergeants as there are military posts, and clerks, forage-masters, and wagon-masters, according to the exigencies of the service. The act of August last reduces the rank and file of the army 3,920 men. This reduction is gradually proceeding in the manner proposed by the act, and will probably reach the proposed limit by the beginning of the year 1844. The last return showed an excess of 1,970 men.

The Secretary supposed the Florida war to be at an end; 450 Indians had been shipped for the West during the past year, and 200 more had surrendered. A force of 1,644 men is still retained, however, in that territory. A considerable force has also been maintained on the southwest frontier, from fear of Indian incursions in that quarter. The Secretary, in this connexion, suggested a reconsideration of the act passed at the last session, by which the second regiment of dragoons will be disbanded in the ensuing spring. He called the attention of Congress to the law respecting the enlistment of aliens. Judicial authorities having decided that aliens were not bound by enlistment, a larger number of discharges of recruits have ensued than were ever known before. He asked for some means to enforce the col-

lection of militia statistics. He repeated his suggestion for a small national foundry. He went at length into an examination of the present tenure of the mineral lands owned by Government, the management of which pertains to his department; and suggested, that the gradual sale of these lands would be a system much preferable to the present, by which they are let on long leases. He called the attention of Congress to the fortifications on the new northern frontier, and to several other points of defence. A renewal of the project for a chain of posts to the Pacific Ocean, was the most important of the other subjects, to which, in a very long report, the Secretary alluded.

The *Secretary of the Navy* stated, in detail, the stations on which the different vessels of the Navy had been acting. The cruising ground of the "Home Squadron" had been enlarged so as to include the "West India Station." He hoped that Congress would take such measures as should allow him to enlarge the squadrons in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. He asked for appropriations to permit him to fit out a squadron for the African coast. He suggested that the public vessels ought to be kept more at sea than they have hitherto been, believing that in this manner the efficiency of the Navy would be greatly increased.

In this report appeared the following statement of a difficulty which took place last summer, of which no official information has hitherto been given:

"Our relations with the countries of the Mediterranean have been preserved on the most friendly footing, with the single exception of the empire of Morocco. In consequence of an outrage, offered by a subordinate officer of that Government, to the late consul of the United States, Mr. Carr, it was deemed necessary to call on the higher authorities to disavow the act, and to punish the aggressor. This was promptly done by Commodore Morgan; and after many delays and much unnecessary formality on the part of the Emperor, ample redress was afforded by the public disavowal of the offence, and dismissal of the offending officer. The friendly relations between the two countries are now restored."

The earliest movement of importance made in Congress, was a renewal of the attempt of the last session to repeal the Bankrupt Law, passed at the extra session

of 1840, (*Mon. Chron.* Vol. II. p. 384.) On the 8th of December, Mr. Benton introduced a bill into the Senate for this purpose, which passed to its second reading. The Senate then referred it to the Judiciary Committee, and did not act upon it definitely at any time in the course of the month, although some debate arose upon it. This repeal bill proposed that cases now pending should, under certain conditions, be prosecuted to a conclusion.

On the 13th, Mr. Everett introduced a bill with the same general object in the House. It was simply provided in it, that no proceedings commenced before Dec. 5, 1842, should be affected by the repeal. The House debated this bill with a good deal of zeal at different times through the month, but came to no final action upon it.

An attempt was made in the House, at the earliest possible period of the session, on motion of Mr. Adams, to rescind the rule of the House, by which all abolition petitions and memorials are laid on the table unread. This motion was, after some discussion, laid on the table on the 12th, by a vote of 106 to 102.

By an act passed at the last session of this Congress, the beginning of the fiscal year was changed from January to July. In order to carry this change into effect, it became necessary to pass an appropriation bill, for the different services required in the first six months of 1843. Such a bill for the civil appropriation was reported on the 14th in the House, and after some amendment, it passed that body on the 21st. The Senate passed it without debate or amendment on the 23d, and it became a law. It will be observed, that the Heads of Departments, in the reports of which we have given abstracts above, prepared their estimates with a view to this new arrangement of the fiscal year.

On the 31st of the month, two communications were received from the President by the House of Representatives. One of them suggested the propriety of the appointment of an agent of Government in China, to act in a diplomatic capacity, if necessary. The other called attention to the importance of our trade and friendly relations with the Sandwich Islands, and suggested the propriety of establishing an United States' consul there. This message stated that the President had informed the King of these Islands, that the United States recognized their independence.

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